

# WTO Accessions Newsletter

In this month of August, the WTO has been enlarged with two more Members. The Russian Federation became the 156<sup>th</sup> WTO Member on 22 August 2012 and Vanuatu followed suit on 24 August 2012. “Both accessions show that joining the WTO remains high on the countries’ agenda since trade can bring a predictable and stable basis for economic growth. ... Joining the WTO is a sign of confidence in the Organization and in what it can deliver for its Members”, said WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy.

## **Two new WTO Members**

The Russian Federation deposited its Instrument of Acceptance on 23 July 2012 and became the 156<sup>th</sup> WTO Member on 22 August 2012. Vanuatu deposited its Instrument of Acceptance on 25 July 2012 and became the 157<sup>th</sup> WTO Member on 24 August 2012.

## **2012 Accession Priorities**

Lao PDR: The Accessions Division circulated two components of Lao PDR’s draft Accession Package, namely: the draft Goods Schedule; and the draft Services Schedule on 20 August 2012. The draft

## Annex 1 – Evolving Calendar of WTO Accessions Working Parties

## Annex 2 –WTO AccessionsWorking Party Chairpersons

No.	Government	Date Working Party established	WP Chairperson
1.			